

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing Of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A device for the induction hardening of components which have a circular cross section, especially crankshafts, the device comprising: two inductor half-shells arranged along a portion of the periphery of the component to be hardened, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein at least one of the two inductor half-shells has only one inductor segment, through which current flows, and wherein a return branch of the inductor half-shell having only one inductor segment is displaced rearwardly relative to the surface of the component to be hardened.

2. (Previously presented) The device as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that one of the inductor half-shells has two inductor segments and in that the other inductor half-shell has only one inductor segment.

3. (Currently amended) The device as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that the inductor half-shell which has the single inductor segment is arranged offset in ~~the~~ a longitudinal direction of the component with respect to the inductor half-shell which has the two inductor segments in such a way that the single inductor segment is located centrally between the two inductor segments.

4. (Previously presented) The device as claimed in claim 3, characterized in that between the two inductor segments there is an intermediate space, the single inductor segment being arranged centrally with respect to the intermediate space.

5. (Previously presented) The device as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the two inductor half-shells each have only one inductor segment.

6. (Previously presented) The device as claimed in claim 5, characterized in that the two inductor half-shells are arranged offset in relation to each other in the longitudinal direction of the component to be hardened.

7. (Previously presented) The device as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that respectively arranged between the two inductor half-shells and outside the two inductor half-shells are sliding shoes, which are provided for coming into contact with the component to be hardened.

8. (Previously presented) The device as claimed in claim 1 characterized in that the inductor half-shells are formed as contactlessly operating inductor half-shells.

9. (Previously presented) The device as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that respectively arranged between the two inductor half-shells and outside the two inductor half-shells are sliding shoes, which are provided for coming into contact with the component to be hardened.

10. (Previously presented) The device as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that the inductor half-shells are formed as contactlessly operating inductor half-shells.

11. (Previously presented) The device as claimed in claim 3, characterized in that respectively arranged between the two inductor half-shells and outside the two inductor half-shells are sliding shoes, which are provided for coming into contact with the component to be hardened.

12. (Previously presented) The device as claimed in claim 3 characterized in that the inductor half-shells are formed as contactlessly operating inductor half-shells.

13. (Previously presented) The device as claimed in claim 4, characterized in that respectively arranged between the two inductor half-shells and outside the two inductor half-shells are sliding shoes, which are provided for coming into contact with the component to be hardened.

14. (Previously presented) The device as claimed in claim 4, characterized in that the inductor half-shells are formed as contactlessly operating inductor half-shells.

15. (Previously presented) The device as claimed in claim 5, characterized in that respectively arranged between the two inductor half-shells and outside the two inductor half-shells are sliding shoes, which are provided for coming into contact with the component to be hardened.

16. (Previously presented) The device as claimed in claim 5, characterized in that the inductor half-shells are formed as contactlessly operating inductor half-shells.

17. (Previously presented) The device as claimed in claim 6, characterized in that respectively arranged between the two inductor half-shells and outside the two inductor half-shells are sliding shoes, which are provided for coming into contact with the component to be hardened.

18. (Previously presented) The device as claimed in claim 6, characterized in that the inductor half-shells are formed as contactlessly operating inductor half-shells.